

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-08

TAR-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07

SP-03 L-03 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 110933Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5700

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0747

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EI

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEAT PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 110296

1. USG POSITION ON SUBJECT PUT TO IRISH OFFICIALS.  
IRISH VIEWPOINT IS DISPOSAL OF IRISH SURPLUS THROUGH  
EC CHANNELS BEST METHOD SO FAR AVAILABLE. IRELAND  
SUPPORTS CURRENT EC POLICY AND HAS NO SIGNIFICANT POLICY  
OTHER THAN IN EC CONTEXT. GOI WOULD STRONGLY RESIST ANY  
POLICY WHICH LOWERS FARM PRICES, BUT MIGHT SUPPORT  
CONSUMER MEAT SUBSIDIES IF NOT TO DISADVANTAGE OF OTHER  
MEATS AND IF LION'S SHARE PAID BY EC. GOI NOW PUSHING  
FARMERS HARD TO CONSERVE MORE WINTER FEED.

2. IRELAND WILL NOT SUPPORT BEEF EXPORT CONTROLS OR  
IMPORT LIBERALIZATION, VOLUNTARY OR OTHERWISE, FOR  
FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. FARMERS ALREADY HOLDING EXCESS STOCKS OF CATTLE  
SINCE MID-1973 IN HOPE OF BETTER MARKETS. THESE CATTLE  
NOW GRAZING LAND NORMALLY RESERVED FOR FODDER CONSERVATION  
WHICH MEANS SUPPLIES LIKELY TO BE SHORT THIS WINTER.

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THEREFORE THESE CATTLE MUST BE SOLD.

B. IRELAND EXPORTS 80 PERCENT OF BEEF AND CATTLE PRODUCTION. LOWERING CONSUMER PRICES WOULD NOT DIVERT SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS TO HOME CONSUMPTION IN IRELAND. OTHER ALTERNATIVE, INTERVENTION, HAS LIMITED CAPACITY, EVEN IF SOME BEEF IS DEBONED AND CANNED. EC HOME MARKET IS FULLY SUPPLIED AND TRADITIONAL BRITISH MARKET OVERLOADED WITH CHEAP BEEF AND CATTLE. IRELAND, THEREFORE, FAVORS ASSISTED EXPORT TO THIRD COUNTRIES. U.S., IS, IN ANY CASE, PRINCIPAL MARKET FOR UTILITY COW BEEF.

C. IRISH ECONOMY DEPENDS ON LIVESTOCK AND MEAT EXPORTS. DURING 1973, EXPORTS OF LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS WERE 25 PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS. THE LARGEST PORTION OF THIS WAS BEEF AND LIVE CATTLE. GROSS OUTPUT OF CATTLE AND BEEF IS OVER 7 PERCENT OF THE GNP. AGRICULTURE EMPLOYS 24 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL LABOR FORCE, AND NEARLY ONE THIRD OF THE POPULATION DERIVES ITS INCOME DIRECTLY FROM FARMING. THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY IS IRELAND'S LARGEST MANUFACTURING SECTOR, ACCOUNTING FOR OVER ONE FIFTH OF TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. MEAT PROCESSING IS IRELAND'S LARGEST FOOD INDUSTRY.

3. SUCCESSIVE IRISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE SEEN LIVESTOCK EXPANSION AS MAJOR FACTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH POLICY. GOI CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE BEEF HERD EXPANSION BY DIRECT SUBSIDIES, DISCOURAGEMENT OF LIVE EXPORTS OF YOUNG CATTLE, AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF GRASSLAND INTENSIFICATION.

4. CRISES SEEN HERE AS CONTINUING THROUGH WINTER 1974/75 BECAUSE OF FEED AND FERTILIZER SHORTAGES/PRICES AND BIG CATTLE BUILDUP. PROBLEM NOT ONLY LOW MARKET PRICES AND RISING COSTS BUT PHYSICAL DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS.

5. FOR ABOVE REASONS, IT APPEARS THAT SIGNIFICANT CURTAILMENT OF IRISH BEEF EXPORTS COULD LEAD TO COLLAPSE OF SOME SECTORS OF THE ALREADY DEPRESSED LIVESTOCK AND MEAT INDUSTRY, LEADING TO HARDSHIP FOR FARMERS AND LARGE

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SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT IN ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES. THIS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR IRELAND. A LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY COLLAPSE WOULD ADVERSELY EFFECT US FEED GRAIN EXPORTS TO IRELAND. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUN 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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